



SF 2274 – Military Education Benefits (LSB 5248SV)

Analyst: Sue Lerdal (Phone: 515-281-7794) (sue.lerdal@legis.state.ia.us)

Fiscal Note Version – As amended by the Senate

Requested by Representative Elesha Gayman

Description

Senate File 2274, as amended and passed by the Senate, makes various changes relating to eligibility for certain education benefits for spouses or dependent children of certain qualified military persons at higher education institutions in the State. The Bill also requires the Board of Educational Examiners to assign staff to assist qualified persons with nontraditional licensure.

The Bill creates a National Security Education Program Working Group within the Department of Education and requires a Veterans and Dependent Children Postsecondary Undergraduate Education Benefits Study by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Background

Certain higher education benefits were amended to include children and spouses of a defined qualified military person effective in FY 2010. This Bill would include only dependent children and includes those on active duty that are stationed in Iowa or adds a spouse and dependent children for certain education benefits. Current law requires the qualified military person to be domiciled in Iowa. This Bill requires Iowa residency for at least one year or to have filed an Iowa tax return in the previous 12 months.

Assumptions

- A minimal number of spouses or dependent children will continue to be enrolled and retain resident tuition status at one of the Board of Regents institutions after the transfer, deployment, or restationing of the qualified military member. The Regents institutions do not increase the tuition rate for a dependent child under current administrative rules once the child is enrolled based on the change of residence of a parent.
- Community colleges, Board of Regents institutions, and private institutions of higher education in the State would provide qualified persons the existing refunding of tuition and fees, course completion opportunities, and course grade options currently provided to the qualified military member at no additional cost to the colleges or institutions.
- The Board of Educational Examiners would complete the requirements of this Bill with existing resources and staff.
- The Department of Education would convene the required national security education program working group in collaboration with the Board of Regents using existing resources.
- The Department of Veterans Affairs would conduct the required study utilizing existing information and research from the Board of Regents, Department of Education, and other postsecondary stakeholders to minimize the cost to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Fiscal Impact

This Bill has minimal fiscal impact.

Sources

Board of Regents
Department of Education
Board of Educational Examiners

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

March 8, 2010

The fiscal note for this Bill was prepared pursuant to [Joint Rule 17](#). Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.
